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has been opened to tourists in the past few years. All the information that will contribute to the comfort and convenience of travelers is given with maps and a vocabulary, in the Pekinese dialect, of words and expressions which will be useful to tourists. Travelers are advised, however, "to show these characters in preference to any attempt to pronounce them as the right tones are difficult to give and a very slight error in tone may alter the meaning of the word." A six days' sight seeing tour of Peking with a description of the places to be visited is one of the features.

**Korea.** By Constance J. D. Coulson. vii and 85 pp., map and illustrations. The Macmillan Co., New York, 1910. \$0.75.

Another of the popular books in the "Peeps at Many Lands" series especially adapted for young readers and beautifully illustrated with colored plates.

**Die Japanische Kolonialpolitik.** By Fritz Wertheimer. 100 pp., L. Friederichsen & Co., Hamburg, 1910.

A desirable contribution to colonial problems in the Far East. The author derived a large part of his material from his own studies in Japan and its dependencies. Japan's distinctive colonies are Hokkaido, Formosa, Korea, and the southern half of Sachalin Island to which Dr. Wertheimer adds Manchuria though it is not counted politically as a part of Japan. He discusses Japan as a colonial nation, describes each of the colonies, treats of the native and labor questions in them, gives statistics of colonial trade and outlines the policy and purposes of the Japanese colonial system.

**Nord-Sumatra.** Bericht über eine im Auftrage der Humboldt-Stiftung der Königlich Preussischen Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin in den Jahren 1904-1906 ausgeführte Forschungsreise. Von Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Volz. Band 1: Die Batakländer. xxi and 395 p., 3 maps, 12 plates, 123 text figures, appendix and index. 10 x 7. Dietrich Reimer (Ernst Vohsen), Berlin, 1909. Mk. 18.

Even if this highly valuable document contained naught memorable or new, nothing of note, it would yet in its form remain invaluable as an exposition of the method of field work of the well trained German geographers. Dr. Volz has had the opportunity to open a new terrain, he has been the first in a wholly unbroken field, he has conducted a reconnaissance in a land whose horizon is as new to geography as it was unfamiliar to himself. We have had occasion of late to comment on British exploration in which clear evidence was presented that the pioneer of new lands was provided with a list of ready made interrogatories whose answer he was expected first to discover. The German method leads to far broader results, it is a model well worth the following.

Sumatra has a peculiar importance in geographical and in ethnographical study. Lying so intimately in touch with the continent of Asia it suggests itself at once, and indeed ultimately it proves to be, the channel through which the Indonesian province received its Asiatic contamination of life, vegetal and animal, including in the latter the human as well. Yet in large areas Sumatra has escaped study. The reason therefor is largely political, for the northern tip of the island is dominated by the Atjeh, Acheen of the usual charts, and it will readily be recalled that for a period measurable now by centuries this obstinately intractable folk has obdurately declined the efforts of generations of the Dutch to reduce them to subjection.

Dr. Volz attacked the problem between 1904 and 1906 and has succeeded most valiantly in prosecuting his mission of peaceful science where armed expeditions have been beaten back times without number. Four chapters of his book are the daily record of exploration, the narrative of the penetration of the eastern Karo country, the lands of the Pakpak, the western Karo country, and finally Toba land and Habinsaran. Interesting in itself, this daily narrative is of yet riper value as affording the amplest equipment for the comprehension of the varying local conditions that qualify his more general conclusions. The precision of this initial record affords complete proof that he entered upon his task, so brilliantly performed, with no preconception, with no theory that must be established. The style which beautifies every page shows that in competent hands the diary of march and camp must prove the most picturesque and certainly the most vivid form of presenting the results of any such scientific survey.

Based upon this reconnaissance report the six remaining chapters are rather fairly divided between geognostic discussion and ethnographic conclusion. With great propriety Dr. Volz establishes his geographical record upon the basic geology of the regions which he has explored. Inasmuch as the field of his operations lies close to the equator and under conditions of excessive precipitation we are to find it most appropriate that the author has devoted a considerable chapter, and that by no means the least valuable in a work which is throughout instructive, to a discussion of the morphological signification of aqueous denudation. In such a work as this a chapter adding so largely to our knowledge of this important phenomenon is as timely as are the studies of æolian denudation in the American survey reports of the great Colorado plateau.

In the ethnographical chapters Dr. Volz discovers four strata of population, three Malayan layers superimposed upon a substratum. This substratum has attracted his most lively interest and he has been at great pains to present the result of his investigations with intimate detail. That he has laid bare no recognizable evidences of the ancient Polynesian population of Indonesia accords with the conclusion at which I have arrived through independent investigation that Java and not Sumatra is the most westerly point at which we can feel at all certain of identifying the Polynesian ancestors. Of course their presence in Java argues an earlier passage through Sumatra, and Percy Smith has already pointed out the Polynesian affinities of the Mentawai off the western coast of Sumatra. It is most interesting that this explorer finds in his substratum traces of the primordial Melanesian culture, the use of the bow, the narrow shield, cannibalism and tattooing. The first and the last of these are indeed Melanesian, but we are not yet in a position to determine that they are an exclusively Melanesian possession.

We must regret that the otherwise brilliantly executed chart of the region explored lacks the geographical coordinates whereby the results could most accurately be correlated with existing maps of the region. This is all the more noticeable since Mr. Vohsen, who deals with his charts well nigh reverently, has put this map in the very capable hands of Mulder of Leiden, evidently to insure the correctness of the names, which for obvious reasons are in Dutch.

The concluding volume is shortly to appear and will be heartily welcome. Together they will form a monument worthy of the great Humboldt anniversary which they are intended to honor.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.